

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01

OMB-01 /090 W

----- 007561

R 011530Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4541

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 3266

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SA, US, IS

SUBJ: SAUDI PRESS TREATMENT OF U.S. VETO

SUMMARY. SAUDI PRESS COMMENTARY FOLLOWING RECENT U.S. VETO IN UN WAS COMPARATIVELY EXTENSIVE. CENTRAL THEME WAS THAT VETO SHOULD NOT COME AS SURPRISE TO ARABS AS IT CONSISTENT WITH TRADITIONAL PRO-ISRAELI U.S. POLICY. U.S. REMINDED, HOWEVER, SUCH ACTIONS ONLY INCREASE ARAB ENMITY TOWARDS IT. END SUMMARY.

1. MOST MAJOR SAUDI PAPERS HAVE COMMENTED THIS PAST WEEK ON RECENT U.S. VETO IN UN IN SUPPORT OF ISRAELI POSITION. COMMENTARY, GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES, WAS FAIRLY WELL BALANCED, ALTHOUGH ONE WRITER, TURKI ABDULLAH SUDAYRI, COMMENTING IN AL RIYADH, CAPITAL'S MAJOR DAILY, WROTE A PARTICULARLY BITTER AND CONDEMNATORY COLUMN ENTITLED QUOTE THE COWBOYS USE THE VETO END QUOTE. SUDAYRI, NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH HIS MORE PROMINENT RELATIVE TURKI KHALID SUDAYRI, V.P. OF CENTRAL PERSONNEL BUREAU, REMINDED HIS AUDIENCE THAT USG HAD

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CREATED GERM WARFARE AND ATOMIC BOMB, AND WAS CURRENTLY,

AS WATERGATE SCANDAL INDICATED, RESORTING TO QUOTE CHEATING, SPYING AND FORGING, IN ORDER PERPETUATE ITSELF IN POWER. END QUOTE. SUDAYRI ALSO TIED USG TO ISRAELI RAID AGAINST FEDAYEEN LEADERS IN BEIRUT AND CONCLUDED HIS ATTACK BY ADVISING USG THAT WHAT IT NEEDS NOW IS TO QUOTE MAINTAIN RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY OF THE AMERICAN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS BECOME UNAWARE OF HIS OWN WILL, WHEN TO FORMULATE HIS OPINION, AND OF HOW HIS GOVERNMENT REACHES POWER, END QUOTE.

2. OTHER COMMENTARY WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS BITTER; INDEED, TWO EDITORIALS IN MECCA'S LEADING PAPER AL NADWA LET U.S. OFFREMARKABLY EASY. JULY 28 COLUMN NOTED THAT U.S. VETO QUOTE WAS NOT A SURPRISE TO ANYONE FOR ZIONISM DOES DOMINATE WHITE HOUSE POLITICS END QUOTE, BUT THEN ADDED THAT AT LEAST USG HAS QUOTE OPENLY CONSISTENT STAND ON THE SIDE OF ISRAEL END QUOTE IN CONTRAST TO RUSSIA WHICH MEETS ARABS QUOTE WITH TWO FACES END QUOTE. DIFFERENT WRITER IN SAME PAPER TWO DAYS LATER USED SAME POINT, THAT US VETO WAS QUOTE HONEST EXPRESSION OF (U.S.'S) TANGIBLE POLICY IN THE AREA, END QUOTE TO CONCLUDE THAT ARABS ARE QUOTE LIVING ON IMAGINATION END QUOTE, BY HOPING UN, U.S. AND USSR WILL FORCE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED LANDS. COLUMN CONCLUDED WITH APPEAL FOR ARAB UNIFICATION.

3. LEADING COMMENTATOR AHMAD MAHMOUD, WRITING IN AL MADINA, TRADITIONALLY MOST ANTI-U.S. OF JIDDA'S PAPERS, WAS RELATIVELY CALM, WARNING USG IN CONCLUSION THAT VETO ONLY QUOTE FEEDS ENMITY TOWARDS USG AND BLOCKS EFFORTS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE BETWEEN ARAB AND AMERICAN PEOPLES. END QUOTE.
THACHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JIDDA03266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730865/aaaabvwp.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Oct-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI PRESS TREATMENT OF U.S. VETO SUMMARY. SAUDI PRESS COMMENTARY FOLLOWING RECENT U.S.
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SA, US, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005